



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 18, 2006

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Man Indicted for Mailing Explosive Device to Federal Courthouse in Richmond

(Richmond, VA) – Rodney Curtis Hamrick, age 41, was charged today in a seven count indictment related to the October 2005 mailing of an explosive device and a powdery substance labeled “Anthrax” to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals located in the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. United States Courthouse, in Richmond, Virginia. If convicted, Hamrick faces a maximum of life in prison. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the indictment.

The indictment alleges that between October 19, 2005 and October 24, 2005, Hamrick assaulted and attempted to kill the Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Court, and her assistant clerks and officers, by mailing a package to the offices of the Clerk containing an operable explosive device that had the capability to cause death. The indictment also alleges that between October 22, 2005 and October 27, 2005, Hamrick further threatened the Clerk by mailing a powdery substance to the offices of the Clerk that was labeled “Anthrax.” Tests later confirmed that the substance was not anthrax.

“This was a grave threat to the United States Courthouse and to the people who work inside, and we will prosecute it accordingly,” said United States Attorney Rosenberg.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Postal Inspection Service (USPIS); Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF); United States Secret Service; and, the Richmond Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney N. George Metcalf and Jerome J. Teresinski, Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Counterterrorism Section, are prosecuting the case for the United States.

Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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